

NOTICE AND NOTE SIGNPOSTS

Contrasts and Contradictions

When a character does something that contrasts with what you'd expect or contradicts his earlier acts or statements, STOP and ask yourself, "Why is the character doing that?"

Aha Moment

When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures something out, STOP and ask yourself, "How might this change things?"

Tough Questions

When a character asks herself a very difficult question, STOP and ask yourself, "What does this question make me wonder about?"

Words of the Wiser

When a character (probably older and wiser) takes the main character aside and offers serious advice, STOP and ask yourself, "What's the life lesson and how will it affect the character?"

Again and Again

When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over, STOP and ask yourself, "Why does this keep happening again and again?"

Memory Moment

When an author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory, STOP and ask yourself, "Why might this memory be important?"